

Altai chain, and obtaining from one of them a view of the Thian-Chan, whose height he estimates from 16,000 to 17,000 feet, nearly one-half being covered with eternal snows, Dr. Schrenk won for himself the proud title of being the first European who had pushed his researches to the northern foot of the "celestial mountains" of the Chinese empire. It is indeed quite clear, from what I already know of them, that Dr. Schrenk's researches must materially change all earlier maps; for though the lake Balkash is laid down, the Issikul does not appear, at least not by that name. Again, the sources of the Tchu river, and its course into the Telekul lake, and the occasional communication between that lake and the Jaxartes (Sir Daria); the true course of the latter stream is the country watered by the upper streams of the Sara Su-a-Ishein, where alone the beautiful mineral "diopase" is found.—*From the Anniversary Address of the President of the Royal Geographical Society.*

Description of three new species of Bivalve Shells, of the genera Cytherea and Venus, by SYLVANUS HANLEY, Esq.

CYTHEREA OVUM. *Cy. testâ ovatâ, solidissimâ, æquivalvi, ventricosâ, nitidâ, lævigatâ, albidâ, epidermide fulvâ indutâ; margine ventrali integro, arcuato; dorsali, utrinque convexiusculo et subdeclivi; latere antico rotundato; postico obtusè subangulato, superuè glauco-cinereo; natibus rectè incurvatis, sæpè crocis; lunulâ obsoletâ; superficie internâ albidâ, posticè livido-purpurascete infectâ; dente postico leviter crenulato; sinu palliari vix ullo.* Long. 0·90; lat. 1·20 poll.

Index Test., sup. t. 15. f. 21. Mus. Cuming, Hanley.

Hab. — ?

Remarkable for its peculiar solidity and the equality of its sides. It bears a slight resemblance to the true *casta* of Chemnitz, but is a more ovate shell.

VENUS BRUGIERI. *Ven. testâ oblongâ, solidiusculâ, subnitidâ, convexâ, valdè inæquilaterali, aut pallidè brunneâ, radiis paucis albis ornata, aut fusco-cinereâ, radiis saturatoribus angustis remotis interruptim pictâ; radiatim sulcatâ; sulcis in medio subimbricatis, utrinque subdecussatis, et posticè in costellas (plerumque subgranosas) mutatis; margine ventrali subrecto aut paulò convexiusculo; dorsali, posticè vix declivi, subrecto aut convexiusculo, anticè subdeclivi et convexiusculo; extremitate anticâ rotundatâ; latere postico producto, obtusè et obliquè biangulato; margine postico magis minusve convexo; natibus curvatis et radio brevi livido posticè ornatis; lunulâ subobsoletâ; ligamento subinfosso; margine cardinali intus purpureo; dentibus angustis, recurvis, parallelis.* Long. 0·85; lat. 1·40 poll.

Index Test., sup. t. 15. f. 59. Mus. Cuming, Hanley.

Hab. — ?

Belonging to the section *Pullastra*, and allied to *decussata*, but easily distinguishable by its shape and peculiar sculpture. It has however been figured for that species in the 'Encyclopédie Méthodique,' pl. 283. f. 4.

VENUS MAGNIFICA. *Ven. testâ suborbiculari, subcordatâ, tumidâ aut ventricosâ, solidissimâ, valdè inæquilaterali; margines versùs purpureo tinctâ, umbones versùs albidâ brunneo sparsim maculatâ; lineis concentricis, sulcisque radiantibus decussatâ; lineis, anticè undosis et paulò elevatis, posticè obsoletis, mediò planulatis et sursum spectantibus; sulcis frequentibus, profundis; margine ventrali arcuato, intusque crenato; dorsali, anticè convexo et declivi, posticè convexo et vix declivi; latere postico majore, obtuso; natibus maximè curvatis; pube, lunulâque prominente cordiformi, livido-purpureis; ligamento infosso; superficie internâ albidâ, im-maculatâ; dentibus ut in V. puerperâ.* Long. 5·; lat. 5 poll.

Hab. Ticao, on the sands; Cuming. Mus. Cuming.

This splendid shell is most closely allied to *puerpera*, but the cessation of the concentric ridges on the posterior side, the tinge of purple which environs the whole margin, and the absence of any coloured rays, enable us at once to separate them. The concentric lines gradually become less elevated and more distant towards the lower margin, and finally (in the adult) entirely disappear. The radiating sulci in aged specimens are so broad at their extremity as to give the interstitial spaces the appearance of costellæ.

ON THE LARUS CAPISTRATUS, TEMM.

At the meeting of the Zoological Society, May 27, Mr. W. Thompson read a paper to prove that the *Larus capistratus*, Temm., is not a distinct species from *L. ridibundus*, and exhibited a series of specimens of both forms in different states of plumage obtained in the neighbourhood of Belfast. The differences between these supposed species are—

1st. In size; but a female specimen of *L. ridibundus*, with black hood, bill and legs arterial blood-red, was exhibited, agreeing in the size of body, tarsi, &c. with *L. capistratus*.

2nd. The colour of the tarsi and toes attributed to *L. capistratus*, and as distinguishing it from *L. ridibundus*, is a mere transition shade, through which all individuals of the latter pass before the arterial blood-red hue is attained.

3rd. The disposition of black or brown on the head, its taking the form of a mask, as in *L. capistratus*, or as a hood, as in *L. ridibundus*, is either transitional or accidental*, and the shade of colour commonly varies from the "broccoli-brown" of the former to the deeper tint of the ordinary *L. ridibundus*.

A specimen of the *L. capistratus*, purchased at the sale of Bullock's collection by Dr. Leach, and believed to have been one of the first birds seen by Temminck, to which he gave this name, is now in the British Museum. By the kindness of Mr. George R. Gray, the author was enabled to make a critical comparison of this bird with the specimens exhibited, and, excepting in the smaller size of the toes and webs of feet, there was no difference between it and some of them;

* Mr. Thompson stated that he had known it to be both transitional and accidental, i. e. for birds to exhibit the mask the *first* summer of their attaining adult plumage, and others the *second* in their first assumption of the black hood.